

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER

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IS IT LAW OR ANARCHY?
If there is anything the people have an abundance of, it is law! In Missouri we have three big books—all full of law. Then we have the national statutes and the ordinances of the cities and towns. And we keep steadily at it—making more law!

We have over 16,000 different rules and regulations, that we call laws, governing our daily actions—and ignorance of the least of these is no excuse for their violation! Could savagery or barbarism be more cruel and unjust—especially when the laws are so muddled that men who make law a life-study cannot understand them?

Some unfortunate citizen is arrested for violating some rule or law of which he was perhaps ignorant—or did not understand. He is dragged into court. If he is poor he seeks "the mercy of the court" and pleads guilty—or the court appoints an attorney to defend him, which practically amounts to the same thing. If he is able he hires a good lawyer and fights.

The case is called and the lawyer on one side can find just as much law to support his case as the lawyer on the other side. But the judge or jury makes a guess at what the law means, and one side wins and the other side appeals to the Appellate Court, where three men sit as judges. Two of these judges hold the law to mean one thing, and the third holds it to mean just the opposite. This is the common result. They can't agree on what is law, yet you and I are supposed to know the law—and ignorance will not stand if pleaded by us. We MUST know—or suffer the consequences.

Next the case is taken to the Supreme Court, where nine judges sit. Five of these hold the law to mean this, and the remaining four dissent and hold the law to mean something else! But the 4 to 1 decision stands as the law until the court reverses itself. Hence it is not what is written in the statutes that is the law, but what the courts say.

In jury trials, where the matter is near the people, the jury must agree. Except in minor cases if one man sees it differently he can prevent any action by the remaining eleven. There is no verdict. What is called a "hung jury" results. But in the high court four men may see it one way and five another—and the one majority fixes the law for all of us.

Just now one of these laws enacted about 14 years ago when the Democrats were in full control, is causing some trouble in Scott county. It is the law governing the distribution of the insurance tax fund by the county court. This law was never intended to be of benefit to rural districts, but only to cities and towns. According to this Democratic law, the education of country children should not be encouraged. They are more contented work better if kept in ignorance. It is even claimed by the wise men that it was never intended that this money should be given to any schools. And the law is as muddled as the rest. See 7102 reads:

"On or before the first day of October of each year, the state auditor shall apportion to the counties and the City of St. Louis ON THE BASIS OF THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN EACH, as shown by the last enumeration certified to the superintendent of public schools, ON WHICH THE SCHOOL MONIES are apportioned and distributed, all of the moneys to the credit of the foreign insurance tax fund. When said apportionment has been made by the state auditor, he shall notify the county courts and the comptroller of the city of St. Louis of the amounts so apportioned, and upon requisition being made upon him, warrants therefor shall be drawn in favor of the treasurers of the counties and the city of St. Louis."

Now, to a man up a tree, it might appear that the schools had something to do with this fund, since its distribution is based upon the "number of school children," as shown by the last enumeration "on which school moneys are apportioned and distributed." But our wise men say "No!" See 7103, instructing the county court what to do with this money, reads:

"When the money has been received by the treasurers of the counties and the city of St. Louis it shall be the duty of the county court of each county to apportion said money among the incorporated cities and towns in said county, and to the general revenue fund of the county in the following manner: The said court shall multiply the number of children on the last enumeration list of such incorporated cities and towns by the same ratio used by the state auditor in making the distribution among the counties of the state, and draw its warrant in favor of such cities and towns respectively for the amounts found due each, and the remainder shall be placed to the credit of the general revenue fund of the county."

Here we find the county court instructed to take as its basis in apportioning this money "the number of school children on the last enumeration list" of the incorporated towns and cities, but

does not specifically say that it shall be paid to the schools. And here is the hitch. On this point the law is, as in most cases, as clear as mud!

Last week the county court with Judge Fraser presiding, dumped this fund into the general fund. I don't see any law for that, either. Attorney Finch, on behalf of the Forney school officials, has instituted injunction proceedings.

And I recall what I said to W. H. Hutton, of Commerce, when he expressed himself as cock sure that this money would not be used in building the new court house: "You'll see!"

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES.

Washington, April 17.—Washington gazed today when the special report of Representative Palmer, of Pennsylvania, which led to the purging of the House pay-roll and the saving of \$182,000 in salaries, was made public, revealing record-breaking sinecures.

A 13-year-old girl, daughter of the chief door-keeper, was found to be drawing \$1,200 a year under the title of "Jerk to the door-keeper." Thirty-eight extra policemen, authorized when during the Spanish-American war someone said that there was a plot to dynamite the capitol, were still on the pay-roll costing annually \$39,000.

Two telegraph operators, drawing \$1,400 annually each, assigned to a wire long ago discontinued, were still on the rolls.

Six thousand dollars was saved by abolishing the salaries of employees of the clerk's document room. The room was abolished SIXTEEN YEARS AGO!

Almost an equal sum was saved by abolishing the pay of employees, "attendants in the library." The library was removed from the capitol many years ago. And not a Republican nor Democrat protested at this shameful graft—not until a Socialist appeared in congress. They knew that he would "tell tales out of school"—so they headed him off. Therefore, the thing to do is to send more Socialists to congress.

This Socialist congressman has already introduced a resolution demanding the withdrawal of the army from the Mexican border. And it may be set down as a 10 to 1 shot that the troops will be withdrawn. The people of this nation are not as glib as 13 years ago when they were tricked and deceived by Wall Street and its press into the Spanish bungle game by blowing up the Battleship Maine!

WHO ENLIST IN THE NAVY?
From Chicago Socialist.

The Mexican war situation has given rise to the question, who enlist in the navy? The discovery that the average age of the fifty thousand men who compose the United States navy is just one month less than 21 years is a startling fact. In the first place it goes to show that the older and wiser men do not enlist. When a man has reached the age of 25 or 30 years, not even all the glittering wiles of the capitalist government can induce him to give his life and services to the infamous task of training himself in the art of brutally shooting down his brothers at the beck and call of the government which takes orders from Wall Street.

The inexperienced, ignorant, unwary, easily tricked, homeless, wandering young men of the country enlist. The better informed young men do not enlist. The rich man's son would not think of enlisting; and if he would his wise dad would not let him do so.

The suggestion to our young men is that they become fighters in the ranks outside of the navy. That they join their brothers, the workers of all nations, in the inauguration of a movement for the complete abolition of as useless and expensive an institution as the navy.

Workers should not shoot workers for the protection of the masters, those who own great wealth.

The expense of the navy is well nigh staggering. Not less than \$129,000,000 has been appropriated to keep up this institution next year.

Can you fathom the outrage? And that money comes from taxes paid into the coffers of the government by the people of the country, the vast majority of whom are workers.

Why not pay out that money to workers in old age pensions instead?

The government is now covering the country with glittering lectures, stereopticon shows and illustrated talks on the brilliancy and immensity of the navy, advising the people to stand by the government in its huge appropriations and outrageous expenditure for its support.

These lectures are given in churches, in schools, and before working men's clubs, and sometimes before labor organization bodies.

Labor, however, is getting next.

The salvation of the workers from the tyranny of this momentous game to fool the young men to enter such a tortuous life work is in rebellion.

Talk against it. Agitate against it. Ridicule it.

But, above all, vote against it. Young men should not enlist in the navy.

WHO DOES YOUR THINKING?
Things do seem funny to a fellow that has a thinking apparatus that, like a cheap clock, will sometimes "go." How different things would be if a majority of the people had such an apparatus that would sometimes "go."

As I write I think of money—the "root of all evil." What is there to money that is not fictitious? Like many other "sacred" institutions, we have had it pounded into us that gold is it. But why would not aluminum do as well—or better? It is much lighter and cheaper.

What is there to gold that makes it so sacred that we are told that the streets of heaven are paved with it?

During my entire experience I have never had occasion to use any gold. The only useful purpose that it serves, so far as I know is in the arts. Clay that is used in the making of bricks and pottery is far more serviceable to humanity than either gold or silver. But you don't sing about clay streets as you do about the golden streets.

Why? Oh, well, you don't know. It never occurs to you that it is because of your education and training—inherited from ages past.

Some people want things that everybody can't have. Gold is a comparatively scarce article. Were it as common as clay it would be no more sought after. If clay were as scarce as gold, and gold as plentiful as clay, the foolish would wear bricks around their necks instead of gold. Anything to appear "superior."

I am drifting away from money. Gold is money because the LAW makes it so. And they who control the gold make the law—in the name of the people. But the people have nothing to say—nor do they seem to care. And as long as gold is permitted to be the basis of money, just so long will the owners of gold be supreme. This is true of heaven as well as of earth. In fact, the Christians borrowed the scheme from the heathens—just as they borrowed much else.

But suppose the people got woke up, and should reason for themselves instead of proxy? Suppose that the people concluded that Uncle Sam would be a better guarantee behind a dollar than a national bank? Suppose that they would decide that Uncle Sam is really better than the banker and the gold combine? Suppose they should enact their conclusions into law?

Can't you see what would happen? Gold would lose its power.

TAKING ORDERS FROM WALL STREET

Alex Irvine, in Appeal to Reason. I was in Arizona a few weeks ago—down by the Mexican border. One night as I sat at supper in a cafe I overheard a conversation at the next table. Six United States soldiers were there and they were warmly engaged in war talk. That of itself would not have interested me much but for the fact that in the exchange of thought these men made "war" and "Wall Street" synonymous terms.

"I don't mind the fight business," said a sergeant in loud tones. "I'll gladly go anywhere I'm ordered, but by—, it goes plumb against my grain to get my orders so directly from Wall Street!"

"You bet!" said a second man, and the other four acquiesced. So hot was the talk along this line that had not been for the uniform one would have imagined a Socialist leader.

Indeed, so at home did I feel that I went over and introduced myself. I told them who I was and what I was doing. "Well," said one, who seemed to be a sort of spokesman for the others, "we are not Socialists, and as I understand it Socialists are against the army, but we know the damned game as the Wall Street men are playing it, and we are with the Socialists to the extent that we are against an army merely for Wall Street purposes."

"How generally do army men agree with you?" I asked. The answer came quick:

"Nine out of ten men down here officers and all, know why we are on the edge of Mexico. We know that we are here to protect the interests of those who own mines and railroads."

"What of mobilization?" "Rot!"

"You men are interested in the outcome of the revolution of course."

"Sure thing, but stranger, keep your eye on the bull's eye—wherever loss in Mexico, the men of Wall Street win!"

I accepted their invitation to visit camp next day, and to a group of seventy-five I gave a talk on the Socialist philosophy. The soldier, when rightly approached, is a man with hopes and desires and passions like our own.

It is some satisfaction to a Socialist to know that the bankers, promoters, landlords, reformers, dive keepers, brewers, prohibitionists, distillers, gamblers, speculators, the well-paid priests and preachers, lawyers and the subsidized editors all walk up to the polls and vote as a unit against Socialism. It makes the Socialist feel sure he is right.

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TRYING TO KEEP COURAGE.

A noticeable feature of the election returns this week is the frequency with which some victory over the Socialists is chronicled. But, bless you, do you think this is encouraging the Socialists? No, indeed. This is the first year anybody has really cared to crow over their defeat. It proves that they are no longer a negligible quantity. They have put themselves on the map. From now on the Socialists will get into the quotations regularly.—St. Louis Daily Star, April 7.

This "noticeable feature" seems not to have escaped Scott county. Another "noticeable feature" here is that while we hear of Socialist "defeats" we do not hear of any Democratic or Republican "victories." Wherever the Socialists put up a town ticket these eminent deceivers of the people appeared as "citizens." And a "Citizens' ticket" on which both the old parties were represented was put out. Yet when, by combining, they defeat the Socialists, they crow!

At Forney the three parties are pretty evenly divided—with the Republicans slightly in the lead. A few days after the election I talked with J. A. Finch of the election there. "Oh, we beat the Socialists bad; we got 125 and they got only 56," he said.

"But you double-teamed on them. That isn't a bad showing for the Socialists; they got more than a third of the vote."

Another thing: In places like that the old parties don't put up their "respectable citizens." They fill the ticket with workingmen—but not of the class conscious kind. They pick the kind that haven't yet got their eyes opened—the kind who believe that the interests of capital and labor are the same, and take orders from the capitalists.

If anybody got a black eye in the recent elections in this county, it was the Democrats, who lost their candidate for school superintendent by 439 votes.

MAKING A NOISE

The noise the Democrats are making about what they are GOING to do because they have control of the Lower House of congress sounds very much like the noise I heard them make when we elected Cleveland in 1892. And since the noise is similar, we may expect the result to be similar.

The Democrats are as completely under the domination of "the interests" as are the Republicans. The campaign fund of both parties comes out of the same tin. Under oath Standard Oil said:

"In Republican States we contribute to the Republicans; in Democratic States we contribute to the Democrats; in doubtful states we contribute to both."

But Democrats are great friends of "the people" so long as they are in the minority and can do nothing. But whenever they are in control they are as tyrannical as the Republicans—if not more so. Look at the South! Where is labor more degraded than there? Not half of the people are permitted to vote and property qualifications are established in most states.

Yes, the Democrats are "good," so long as they have no chance. Who were the bootlickers in Missouri but Democrats? Is not Tammany, the rottenest organization that Wall Street dominates, Democratic? Who sustained Joe Cannon in power but Democrats? Who elected Lorimer but Democrats? Who, in Scott county, is ignoring the people in the building of a new court house but Democrats?

Yes, if you want "good government," leave it to the Democrats. They'll fix it.

WATCH IT GROW!

As an indication of what the Socialist movement is doing it might interest you to read the following report by the national secretary as it appeared in the Chicago Daily Socialist:

"For the month of March, just closed, the receipts for dues at the national office exceed the previous high record for any one month, which was made in December, 1910, by \$136.05. The comparative receipts for the first quarter of 1910 and 1911 are as follows: 1910, \$7,999.46; 1911, \$11,573.24. The average paid up membership for the year 1910 was 58,011, which was an increase of 16,000 over the previous year. The figures for the quarter just closed show more than 78,000 members, an increase of 20,000 for the three months."

When we consider that in Milwaukee the Socialists have ten daily papers opposing them, while they had only a weekly, we may imagine something of the magnitude of their opposition. Add to this the church, the reformers, the dive keepers, the grafters and the public service corporations and you may have some idea of the job on their hands.

The worst feature about the Lorimer scandal in Illinois is that Lorimer is such a "good man." He is a church worker and a regular Sunday school kid. However, it may be that a common error has crept in here. Instead of Lorimer being a church worker he is probably like the rest of his ilk—a "worker" of well-meaning church people.

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AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA.

Berkeley, Cal., Flint, Mich., and Butte, Mont. are the largest and most important cities added to the Socialist column at the April elections. Flint is a manufacturing city. Butte is in a mining district, and Berkeley is the educational center of the Pacific slope. J. W. Wells, who took part in the Berkeley campaign, writes:

"The writer had the privilege of helping, in a limited way, in the Berkeley campaign during the last ten days of the contest. Every phase of the work was systematically arranged. There was nothing haphazard. Each department had its head, and all worked in harmony. The contrast between Milwaukee and Berkeley is very great in many ways. Milwaukee's population is largely of foreign extract, while Berkeley is overwhelmingly American. Milwaukee has been made famous by her beer industry, and Berkeley is known as the University City—the seat of learning and culture. Milwaukee has a large millionaire class, a large middle and working class, ranging down to the poorest class. Berkeley has few very rich men, a large proportion of the well-to-do, of the middle class and a large number of professional men, not connected with the University; business men, clerks, mechanics and working men, called 'commuters,' who go to San Francisco and return every day. She is a city of homes and looks over the bay to the Golden Gate with complacent satisfaction. Milwaukee may have been reached by the Socialist message through the stomach—Berkeley may have been reached through her head."

"Milwaukee may well be proud of her first born, for it is an intellectual giant and several others. The Socialist rainbow of promise now reaches from the City Hall of Milwaukee to the dome of the University of California—to Berkeley, the Light House of the Pacific Coast."

"A vote of thanks should be sent to Teddy for 'butting in' at Berkeley in behalf of Conrad Wilson's opponent, Mr. Roosevelt went out of his way to speak for Mr. Hodghead on several public occasions while here, filling engagements covering several days in the heart of this campaign."

"It is difficult to give in detail what took place when the result of the election was announced. Conrad J. Stitt Wilson, mayor-elect, was forcibly laid hold of and hoisted to the shoulders of four strong men and surrounded by a multitude of friends, was carried thru the streets of electrified conservative Berkeley midst an uproarious pandemonium of unrestrained joy to the Socialist Headquarters, where he sat in a brief what might be expected of the administration if a council was elected to sustain him. The election will take place April 22."

"What has taken place in Berkeley, Butte, Mont., Flint, Mich., Girard, Kans., Beatrice, Wyo., and Red Cloud, Neb., and dozens of other places can be done in your town or city. Get in the boat; the tide is rising!"

BERGER HEARD FROM

Washington, D. C., April 15.—Asserting that the military force of the United States has been exerted to assist President Diaz of Mexico in attempt to retain his despotic control over that so-called republic, Representative Victor L. Berger, the Socialist member from Wisconsin, introduced a joint resolution demanding that the president transmit to congress all available information showing why he ordered the Texas army "maneuvers."

After reciting that conditions in Mexico represent a civil war between a "rich and powerful oligarchy and a liberty loving, oppressed and despoiled people" the Berger resolution provided:

"That the senate and the house of representatives unhesitatingly affirm the American doctrine of self-government and declare that the United States army be withdrawn from the frontier and the navy from the coast of Mexico and that the intention and policy of the United States should be to remain neutral in the pending conflict and not to invade, take possession of, or annex the country of Mexico, and."

"That the president immediately submit to congress all documents and reports upon which the executive order for mobilization was based."

IT WAS SO EASY.

From the Cal. Ill. Citizen. The third of a series of debates in the senior American History class took place Wednesday afternoon.

The subject was, "Resolved that a Socialistic form of government would be superior to the present form." The speakers were: First affirmative, Nettie Pierce; first negative, Mary Butler; second affirmative, Mabel Gibson; second negative, Edward Zerfass. The decision was 2 to 1 in favor of the affirmative.

Tony McNamara acted as chair man. The judges were Edward G. Pink, M. Agatha Burgess, Ruth Peterson.

QUITE DIFFERENT.

Mrs. Subbubs (who has hired a man to plant shade trees) "Digging out the holes, I see, Mr. Lannigan."

Lannigan—"No, mum, O'm diggin' out the dirt an' lavin' the holes."—Catholic News.

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